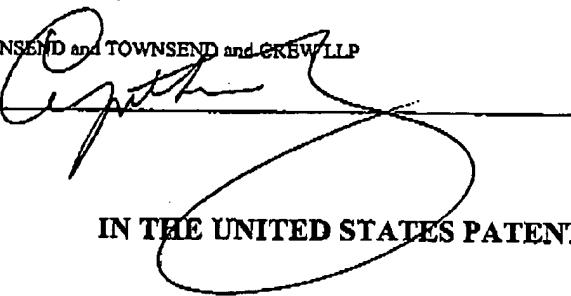


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306.
Dated: December 8, 2003

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and GRESHAM LLP

By: 

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING
GROUP 2881**

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-019100US
Client Ref. No.: 219800526US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

KENJI OBARA, et al.

Application No.: 09/743,560

Filed: January 9, 2001

For: SAMPLE OBSERVATION
METHOD AND EQUIPMENT

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 4021

Examiner: Anthony G. Quash

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2881

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 2881**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2003 on the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

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